

Application No.: 10/602216
Docket No.: AD6892USNA

Page 4

REMARKS

The section 112 objection to Claims 19 and 20 concerning antecedent in the claims is now moot.

All the claims also stand rejected under Section 103 over Ostapchenko (US 4,725, 481) or Vrouenraets et al (US 4,493,870) in view of Lim et al.(US 6,187,696). Both grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

Claim 18, as presently amended, recites the interlining comprising additional hot-melt adhesive layer is attached on an surface of either the fabric or the film side constituting the interlining. This additional adhesive layer is recited in the specification (page 3, lines 13 to 20, and page 8, line 28, to page 9, line 2).

Ostapchenko requires that a bicomponent film of hydrophobic copolyetherester elastomer and hydrophilic copolyetherester elastomer is made by a conventional coextrusion procedure, and the film is bonded to a textile materials by thermal lamination of the film on hot roll calendering equipment with the hydrophobic layer of the film next to the textile material. This is because the water vapor transmission rate is substantially higher for water vapor passing in the direction of the hydrophilic layer of the film to and through the hydrophobic layer of the film than in the other direction. Ostapchenko requires particular composting/ bonding order. The interlining of the present invention is formed by a combination of a nonwoven fabric with a nonporous waterproof and windproof moisture-permeable hydrophilic film bonded together by a hot melt adhesive. It does not need to be concerned with such order or relationship and selection of bonding. Accordingly, Ostapchenko does not suggest the interlining of the present invention which is formed by a combination of a nonwoven with the film, bonded together by a holt melt adhesive layer and another adhesive holt melt adhesive layer that is used to laminate with another fabric or base material; The disclosure of Ostapchenko certainly does not provide any clear teaching or suggestion of any particular defined combination, and certainly not such as those contemplated by the present invention in claim 18.

The examples of the Ostapchenko reference illustrate only a combination of hydrophobic copolyetherester elastomer and hydrophilic copolyetherester elastomer. Accordingly, it is impossible to predict how requirements from interlining as described at a part of page 3, lines 1 to 12 might be attained. There is nothing in the reference that would lead one skilled in the art to the present invention.

Application No.: 10/602216
Docket No.: AD6892USNA

Page 5

Lim et al disclose that a moisture vapor permeable, substantially liquid impermeable composite sheet material comprising a fibrous nonwoven substrate and a moisture vapor permeable thermoplastic film being bonded to the nonwoven substrate with a hot-melt adhesive contacting less than 75% of the surface of the side of the fibrous nonwoven substrate. Considering that Lim et al are concerned with different end use, the fact that they can be or are used for making medical drapes, medial gowns and absorbent articles, such as diapers and sanitary napking that must be comfortable, soft, pliable and substantially liquid impermeable, is not particularly relevant since it is well known that nonwoven or a moisture vapor permeable thermoplastic film can be used for making any number of articles that need to exhibit some moisture-permeable, waterproof and windproof.

Even if combined with Lim et al, Ostapchenko does not render any claims herein obvious because Ostapchenko does not disclose the same combination as does applicant. The Ostapchenko structure is the combination of hydrophobic copolyetherester elastomer and hydrophilic copolyetherester elastomer and relies on the composite properties of two different elastomers. The present interlining does not contain nor require the source. Finally bonding is carried out differing in Ostapchenko than in the claims of the present application. Ostapchenko requires conventional coextrusion for elastomers and melt bonding or adhesive bonding for bonding a textile material to the hydrophobic layer. The present interlining has a hot melt adhesive layer for bonding the nonwoven fabric to a hydrophilic film and to either another fabric or base material.

Vrouenraets et al disclose a flexible layered product for use in waterproof garments or tents having a porous textile material which is hydrophobic. It is made of fabric (for example, based on PET) covered with a waterproof material of a film of a copolyether ester, the film being attached to the textile material in various ways such as a heat treatment, sewing or the use of an adhesive. The product disclosed is not an interlining and does not requires the properties recited in claim 18. Nor do Vrouenraets et al suggest the preparation of such a interlining.

Application No.: 10/602216
Docket No.: AD6892USNA

Page 6

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: 4-16-07

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